

The proponent of the limitation assumes the burden of establishing that any duties imposed by the provision either are merely ministerial or otherwise required by law.

The proponent in this case has failed to meet the burden. Accordingly, the point of order is sustained, and the amendment is not in order.

□ 1300

Are there further amendments to the bill?

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. KUCINICH

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 13 offered by Mr. KUCINICH:

At the end of the bill (preceding the short title), insert the following:

TITLE VII—ADDITIONAL GENERAL PROVISIONS

PROHIBITION ON FUNDS FOR KOSOVO PROTECTION CORPS

SEC. 701. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be made available for the Kosovo Protection Corps.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve a point of order against the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) reserves a point of order.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 12, 2000, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a simple amendment. It would prohibit any funds in this bill from going to the Kosovo Protection Corps, an organization that has always been and continues to be a rogue force in Kosovo.

In September 1999, the Kosovo Liberation Army, KLA, was transformed into a 5,000 member demilitarized civilian organization known as the Kosovo Protection Corps, KPC. According to U.N. regulations on the establishment of the KPC, and this is a quote, "the Kosovo Corps shall not have any role in law enforcement or the maintenance of law and order."

However, according to an unreleased internal United Nations report, the Kosovo Protection Corps has been using violence, extortion, murder, and torture. Because this report has not been made public, lawmakers in the United States who actually set the United States budget for this mission in Kosovo must rely on the media to provide such crucial information.

According to press accounts, the report states that the KPC has been involved in "criminal activities, killings, torture, illegal policing, abuse of authority, intimidation, breaches of political neutrality and hate speech."

The Washington Post reported that the U.N. report states that several members of the KPC "allegedly tortured or killed local citizens and illegally detained others, illegally attempted to conduct law enforcement activities, illegally forced local businesses to pay taxes, and threatened U.N. police who attempted to intervene and stop wrongdoing."

An article in the British Guardian newspaper indicates that in Dragash, two members of the KPC and three others were arrested by U.N. police in connection with the killing of an ethnic Gorani. It goes on to say the U.N. report cited "three charges of ill-treatment and torture: in Pec, a man was beaten senseless in the KPC's headquarters, suffering head injuries and severe bruising from a rifle butt. . . . In Prizren, a man from the Torbesh minority . . . was kidnapped and beaten up by a KPC member and three other men. And in Prizren KFOR suspended alleged torturers from the KPC."

A GAO report on security in the Balkans indicates that the Kosovo Protection Corps may be adding to unrest and regional instability in the region. It states that KFOR and the U.N. have detained members from the KPC "for carrying unauthorized weapons and engaging in violence and intimidation against ethnic minorities."

So the goals of the U.N., as stated in U.N. Resolution 1244 are actually being impeded by the KPC. These goals include: deterring renewed hostilities, demilitarizing armed groups, ensuring public safety and order, and protecting and promoting human rights.

The U.N. itself cited the KPC for threatening U.N. personnel in efforts to intervene in wrongdoing. So, not only is the KPC responsible for human rights violations, but the KPC is making it harder for the U.N. to accomplish peace in Kosovo.

An Amnesty International report issued in February concluded that after 6 months of peacekeeping efforts in the region, "human rights abuses and crimes continue to be committed at an alarming rate, particularly against members of minority communities."

According to the Human Rights Watch World Report 2000, "Ethnic Albanian refugees returned to a devastated Kosovo almost immediately after the withdrawal of Serbian and Yugoslav forces, and soon began a series of revenge attacks against the region's minority populations. A wave of arson and looting of Serb and Roma homes quickly deteriorated into harassment and beating of individuals. Most serious was a spate of abductions and murders of Serbs."

Finally, International Crisis Group, an internationally renowned conflict prevention and conflict resolution group based in Washington, D.C. and Brussels, recently issued a report on the KPC. It states that "Even the UNMIK's own officials and some KFOR officers admit (though never in public) that the KPC is, and will probably remain, a military-style organization."

These are credible reports from many credible sources that reveal that the KPC is causing unrest and instability as it continues to engage in violent and brutal practices. These human rights abuses of extortion, murder, kidnapping, torture, and intimidation must not continue.

So why should American tax dollars support an organization which is actually worsening the situation of ethnic hatred and violence in war-torn Kosovo? There has been enough violence in the Balkans. Why sustain this volatile atmosphere by continuing to allow the KPC to run rampant in Kosovo?

Most of Europe already knows this. That is why almost all NATO countries do not fund the KPC.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio cannot request unanimous consent to extend his own time. It is permissible to ask unanimous consent that both the proponent and an opponent are given an equal amount of time.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that both myself and the opponent be given 1 extra minute.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) may proceed for 1 additional minute.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, most of Europe already knows about the KPC. According to a May 10, 2000 United Nations Status Report, the United States has pledged about \$5 million and Germany has pledged about \$1.5 million. So the United States foots the majority of the bill for an organization which has failed to benefit society in Kosovo.

I am asking for a yes vote on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) has 30 seconds remaining.

Does the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) insist upon his point of order?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Nebraska withdraws his point of order.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for 6 minutes in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the proposed amendment to this bill of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) would terminate